

Zermatt and his two sons and Mr. Wolston, even if they had made a surprise attack. It must have been a large band that had invaded New Switzerland, whither they must have come in a fleet of canoes. The fleet was doubtless lying at the present moment in the creek, with the boat and the pinnace. It could not be seen from the top of Falconhurst because the view in that direction was cut off by the point of Deliverance Bay,

And where were the Zermatts and the Wolstons ? What inference must be drawn from the fact that they had not been encountered at Falconhurst or thereabouts ?

That they were prisoners at Rock Castle, that they had had neither time nor opportunity to seek refuge in the other farms—or that they had been massacred ?

Everything else was explained now—the havoc wrought at Falconhurst, and the deserted condition in which the Promised Land was found between the Swan Lake canal and the shore.

How could they cherish any but the faintest hope ? So, while Captain Gould and the boatswain

kept the natives in view, the others
sorrowed
together*

There was one last chance. Could
the two
families have taken refuge in the
westward, in
some part of the island beyond Pearl
Bay ? If